

April 2019

## Letter to the Editor [Ken Weston] 1

*Let us know how access to this document benefits you*

### Copyright

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.uni.edu/postville\\_documents](https://scholarworks.uni.edu/postville_documents)



Part of the [Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

"Letter to the Editor [Ken Weston] 1" (2019). *Postville Project Documents*. 261.  
[https://scholarworks.uni.edu/postville\\_documents/261](https://scholarworks.uni.edu/postville_documents/261)

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the Postville Project at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Postville Project Documents by an authorized administrator of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@uni.edu](mailto:scholarworks@uni.edu).



# Viewpoints

www.postvillenewspaper.com

## Letters to the Editor

About a month ago, I was hired at Agriprocessors and fired the same day, because I was laughing and joking with another new hire. I have been back several times to the Jacobson Staffing Company for paperwork just to find out I am on the list of those not to hire back. This is my first time ever hired at Agriprocessors.

I would like to note that everyone deserves a second chance. I am not prejudiced toward anyone. I am not on drugs. I am not a criminal, nor am I an illegal citizen. I apologize if I offended or disrespected anyone in any way. I've proven to some people and reading this letter should proved to many other people that I am willing and determined to work.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Vega  
Zulema Medina  
Postville Resident

To the Editor:  
I was sitting in church this past Sunday (June 29, 2008) as one of our leaders at Washington Prairie Lutheran was reporting on issues that had been discussed at the Northeast Iowa ELCA Synod Conference just held a few days ago. Three recent disasters soon became the subjects discussed. These tragedies were the tornadoes in and around Parkersburg, the Flood of 2008 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and around northeast Iowa, and thirdly, the ICE raid at Postville's meat packing plant. The first two were acts of nature. The third was man-made.

For the first time in my life, the pride that I have for Postville has been tested. The ICE raid was labeled the "largest in

U. S. history." Newspapers from New York to California, from Cedar Rapids to Waterloo to, most recently, today's Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune where an article on the front page in bold print was a story titled, "THERE IS SOMETHING BAD IN THIS TOWN". The article tells of an immigration raid on a packing plant that has torn an Iowa community apart. It states that a town which boasted of the peaceful coexistence of its many cultures has been left "absolutely shattered." The story continues telling of human suffering and social injustice. It tells of worker safety accusations and of the condoning of illegal status of its workers. The raid broke up families and cast great fear in the children. The father may now be in prison for five months and the mother and children are stuck in Postville with no food and no income. How does this compare to what our ancestors encountered when they passed the Statue of Liberty to a new life in America? How can our government not address a "broken" system? The existing laws are bad and an impediment to solving this great problem. I would hope that Congressman Bruce Braley would continue the resolve that he demonstrated right after the raid, to bring the parties doing wrong to justice.

Having one's hometown stormed by armed Federal agents on the ground and in the air was a shocking event on an otherwise peaceful Monday morning. Seeing the people that walked the streets with their families being marched into buses and being taken to Waterloo for interrogation was an awful sight. All three regional television stations had mobile transmitters in town to let the world know. I personally encourage them to "keep digging." The website KCRG.com had many stories of what was going on in our town and also had available to download the 507 page Affidavit that became the search warrant for ICE to enter the meat packing plant and to execute the horrific

actions that occurred on this memorable Monday morning. I am told that the local Police Department did not know of the raid coming. The Governor did. Interesting!

Coverage of the events surrounding the raid was far and wide. I was told by a friend to check out the website, "Failed Messiah.com" Some very interesting statement about what was going on in Postville, Iowa and what some of the people who buy Kosher products on the east coast think. Coincidentally, this website also makes available for printing the 57 page affidavit which detailed Senior Special Agent David Hoagland's order to search for violation of Title 8, Title 18, and Title 42 of the United States Code.

The people who have been brought to Postville to replace those uprooted by ICE were promised food, decent lodging, and money until receiving a their first paycheck by the local employer and the firm they hired to re-establish a work force. Stories exist about some or all of these provisions were not delivered. What has happened to human rights in our community, our state, and our nation? A clergyman was quoted in the Star Tribune article saying that the situation reveals a total lack of respect of human dignity. Please pray with me that those involved in this gigantic injustice be struck by the Holy Spirit to make right these injustices that have occurred in our midst.

A coalition has been formed to provide assistance to local Latino families impacted by the ICE raid. As the local food pantry is depleted, area church congregations are sponsoring a community meal each Wednesday evening. This past Wednesday about 150 people were fed at St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Postville, assisted by the women of Washington Prairie Lutheran Church. Money is also needed for humanitarian aid and food items for the Postville Food Pantry. One lady and her children who came had had nothing to eat for three days. The needs of the community will continue through October when many husbands, fathers and mothers will be deported after serving a five month jail sentence. It is estimated 45 to 70 families will need aid for two to five months.

The following is a list of things that are needed. Monetary donations can be sent to St. Bridget's Hispanic Ministry Fund, P. O. Box 369, Postville Iowa, 52162. Gift certificates to local grocery stores would also be helpful.

Needed items include:  
diapers, sizes 4, 5 and 6; baby formula, baby cereal, breakfast cereal, canned fruits (especially peaches, pears and mixed fruits), canned vegetables (especially pinto beans, corn and peas), cooking oil, tortillas, dry pinto beans and other dry beans, packages of spaghetti, noodles and ramen noodles, jars/cans of spaghetti sauce, instant potatoes, rice, powdered milk, fruit juice concentrate (in cans, not frozen), ready to eat pudding packs, feminine protective products, powdered laundry detergent, plastic grocery bags for distributing food.

Ken Weston  
Postville

## Representative Thomas; Dem., Elkader: New Iowa Laws hit the books this week

Des Moines, Iowa – State Representative Roger Thomas of Elkader today reminded Iowans about several new laws that will hit the books on July 1, the start of the state's fiscal year. Several changes were made during the 2008 legislative session that will impact Iowans, including a public smoking ban, expanded health care for Iowa children, and more help for Iowa veterans.

"I'm proud of our work continuing the progress in education, health care and good-paying jobs while keeping the state's fiscal house in order," said Thomas. "Iowans should be aware of changes we made to Iowa law beginning on July 1 that could impact their lives, including a statewide public smoking ban and additional identity theft protections."

Some of the changes taking effect on July 1 include:


- Smoking Ban – Bans smoking in the workplace and public places (House File 2212, signed by the Governor).

Rep. Thomas on New Laws  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## BUSINESS LISTING DIRECTORY

### YOUR GUIDE TO AREA BUSINESS SERVICES

**All your protection under one roof.®**  
One call is all it takes to get the insurance you need. Auto, home, business, health, life and more, I'm ready to help.




**Curtis Franzen Agency**  
1 East Main St., Waukon, IA  
Ph. 563-568-3366  
cfranzen@amfam.com

**B & K Heating & Plumbing Inc.**



285 E. Greene St.  
Postville, IA  
**(563) 864-3332**  
Owners:  
Brian Bohr & Ken Klepper  
**Comfortmaker**  
BY APPOINTMENT & EMERGENCY

**Family Dentistry**  
Associates of Monona



101 Franklin  
Monona, IA 52159  
**563-539-4651**

Mark Fohey D.D.S. Linda Carstens D.D.S.  
**New patients welcome!**

**BARTLEIN CONSTRUCTION**

- Replacement Windows
- Siding - Aluminum, Soffit, Fascia
- Dry Wall

Postville, IA • Free Estimates  
**Call Dan, 563-864-3501**



**Girl Friday Clerical Services**



Color Copying, Typing, Labeling, Letters, Cards, Data Entry, Lamination, Family History Books, Class Reunion, Cook Books, Photo Transfers, Business Cards, Invitations  
**No Job is Too Small for Girl Friday!**  
Jo Suckow • Postville • Phone 563-864-7557

**EYE HEALTH CARE**

DR. MEEHAN DR. LEEPER DR. SCHWARTZ  
Optometrists  
805 Montgomery St., Decorah, IA  
**382-4279**  
24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

**JOHN'S APPLIANCE & FUN SPAS**  
Appliances, Electronics



Washers • Dryers • Refrigerators  
Ranges • Freezers • Dishwashers  
Microwaves • TVs • VCR's • Stereos  
JENN-AIR  
NE IOWA'S #1 TV & VCR DEALER  
We Carry The Following Brands:  
MAYTAG Hitachi Crosley  
SHARP Repair all Brands of Appliances  
Ask John Matt for information: **864-7523** HOURS: M-F 8-5 Sat 8-4

**FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**Auto. Home. Life...**

Gary DeVilbiss, Career Agent  
Postville, IA 52162  
(563) 864-7400

**Northeast Iowa Gutters**

- Seamless Gutters 5" & 6" & Gutter Covers
- Siding & Windows
- Soffit & Fascia
- Interior & Exterior Remodeling

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
John Roe or Darwin Frana  
Over 12 Years Experience  
John: (563) 568-2406; Cell (563) 568-1870  
Darwin: (563) 380-8411

CLEANING  
NEW INSTALLATION  
& REPAIR  
COLORS & COLOR MATCHING  
SATISFYING  
ALL YOUR  
CONSTRUCTION  
NEEDS

**HARTLEY ELECTRIC**



John Hartley  
Postville  
**864-3720**  
Wiring Maintenance • Residential • Farm

**Randy Althouse & Family**  
Excavation & Brushgrinding

If you need it, we can achieve it!  
**563-737-2610**

**Larry's Plumbing & Heating**



Sales & Service  
**864-3612**

• Septic Pumping  
• Porta-Potty Rentals  
(for all your special occasions or building sites)

**Ness Pumping Service Inc.**  
563-568-4212 or 563-568-1379

**SCHROEDER INSURANCE**

• Auto • Annuities • Life • Health • IRAs • Farm • Home • Commercial  
Gene Sanderman & Linda Anderson  
PH. 864-3613  
125 South Lawler, Postville, Iowa

**All your protection under one roof.®**

**Julie M Doeppke Agency**  
132 S Main Street  
Elkader, IA 52043  
jdoeppke@amfam.com  
(563) 245-2366



**TRADITIONAL & DECORATIVE CONCRETE**

**Thies Concrete Construction**

(563) 568-6102 OR (563) 568-1102  
KIM THIES  
References Available

## How to prevent mosquito bites and better enjoy time outdoors in the summer



Sarah Brainard Marsh  
Health Columnist

Often referred to as "skeeters" in my family, mosquitoes are a much-hated summer enemy. No other bug squashed between clapped hands is such a point of pride as the mosquito. The embodiment of the "uninvited guest", these little guys will certainly be crashing the party at your 4th of July family outings. There are numerous folk lore remedies to prevent bug bites and a few scientifically proven ones. With some pros and cons each, the CDC states the only way to prevent mosquito-borne illness (many of these remedies are also shown to decrease tick and other bug bites) is to prevent them from biting you.

Why do mosquitoes bite in the first place? The American Mosquito Control Association provides information

on everything you do or do not want to know about mosquitoes. Only the female mosquito bites, and the blood ingested by the female provides protein to maturing eggs. Mosquitoes eat plant nectar for food; much like a honeybee. Mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide from up to 35 meters away, and once the mosquito is within sensing distance, human body odor, heat, and sweat then draw mosquitoes in. Research has shown that "smelly" foods, such as eating limburger cheese and drinking beer, entice more bites—and this could explain why these bugs tend to be drawn to our feet. Heavy perfumes also attract mosquitoes. Most bites are harmless, aside from annoying itching, but mosquitoes and other summer bugs can carry bug-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and Lyme's Disease.

In an attempt to outsmart the bug, many home remedies have been suggested as repellent. It's entirely possible that every last folk remedy for keeping mosquitoes at bay could be proven ineffective by scientific study, but that's no fun! An internet search and poll of life-long mosquito hunters returned many ideas for preventing mosquito bites. Although unproven,

(and many scientifically proven ineffective) these home remedies give a sense of control and wit against buzzing foes. Give them a try at your own risk, but you might come away from the weekend with a bite or ten—try soothing these with a paste of baking soda and water or an ice cube. Scents: vanilla, garlic—ingested or topical as a garlic powder/water paste, and essential oils applied topically and diluted with olive oil such as lavender, tee tree, eucalyptus, lemongrass, basil and peppermint oil (use caution around eyes and mouth when using oils). Potted plants—plant near frequent outdoor areas: marigolds, catnip, basil, citronella, and lavender. Other ideas: dryer sheets rubbed on clothes or hanging out of pockets, Listerine and vinegar, and Vick's VapoRub.

On the less silly side of the topic, there are mosquito and insect repellents that have been proven effective by scientific study. The most effective repellents contain the chemical DEET. When applied as directed, this chemical has been proven safe for children over 2 months of age. Not all repellents contain the same amount of DEET, so check the ingredient list. Another proven alternative for those skeptical of DEET are products based on oil of lemon-eucalyptus, which is also effective at repelling ticks. Talk to your doctor if you have concerns about using these products, especially on children.

Preventing mosquito bites will allow you to thoroughly enjoy time with family and friends, outdoor physical activity, and mood lifting time in nature this holiday weekend and throughout the summer. However, preventing the possibility of contracting the West Nile Virus, which occurred in over 3600 people in 2007, with a 3% fatality rate, is also very important. Although only 30 cases were reported in Iowa, if bites can be prevented, they should be. Try to eliminate standing wa-

**Ready to Roll Over your 401K?**  
You Have A Choice. We Can Help!  
**We have solutions for your financial success!**

**LIFETIME FINANCIAL Solutions**



Linda Grinna, CFP®  
563-382-1717  
Toll Free 866-382-1717

218 E. Water St.  
Suite 2  
Decorah, IA 52101



Jan Helgeson  
563-382-0808  
Toll Free 866-382-0808

Over 50 years of combined business and financial experience!

- Mutual Funds • Annuities • Money Market
- Stocks • Insurance • IRAs • 401K Rollovers

\* Registered Representatives of and Securities Offered Through Financial Network Investment Corporation. Securities Broker-Dealer. Member SIPC. Financial Network not affiliated with LFS.

Preventing mosquito bites  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12